

of Mr. Brent (restricting the Orphans' Courts of the power to order sales of real estate) to the substitute offered by Mr. Merrick.

After some discussion, the further consideration of the subject was postponed until tomorrow.

Mr. Perry asked and obtained leave to change his vote to the affirmative on the passage of the elective franchise bill.

Mr. Longwell said that as the Baltimore city delegation did not seem disposed to take up their system, he would move to proceed with the remaining section of the report.

Mr. Maulsby said he understood the city delegation were willing.

Mr. Henderson said the city delegation were willing to do anything that would facilitate business; all they wanted was to go right straight forward. They had sat here for three months now, listening to the talk of the lawyers, and had become very anxious now to go on with the work.

Part four, relating to the courts of Baltimore city, was taken up.

Section 27 was read.

Mr. Dobbin said the plan as submitted by the committee differed materially from that now existing. The constitution of 1864 reposes the entire jurisdiction of the city of Baltimore in five courts, exclusive of the Orphans' Court. After defining the jurisdiction of the different courts of Baltimore city, Mr. D. said it had been found impossible to apportion jurisdiction among these courts so as to secure an equality of labor. Some of the courts were in session all the time, and were unable to do all the work imposed on them, while others had so little that they were unoccupied for a considerable part of the time. The committee, therefore, had provided for one court under a system which would produce equalization of labor by the transfer of the judges from one court to another as occasion may require. Under this, it was thought, the judges would be able to get through with the work. The Court of Common Pleas, at its last term, had been unable to reach the trial docket at all, but had been entirely occupied with appeals from justices of the peace. The com-